

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/605,735

9. The connection management system of claim 8, wherein the second digital device is further operable to overlay the second point-to-point connection, with respect to the first point-to-point connection, on the digital interface bus, and manage the second point-to-point connection.

10. The connection management system of claim 8, wherein the third digital device is operable to check whether the first digital device is to be connected to the third digital device by the first point-to-point connection, and further operable to establish a third point-to-point connection between the third digital device and the second digital device, when the first point-to-point connection is being established between the second digital device and the third digital device and the third digital device determines that the first digital device is not to be connected to the third digital device by the first point-to-point connection.

11. The connection management system of claim 8, wherein the digital interface bus is an IEEE 1394 standard serial bus.--.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 are pending in the Application before entry of this Preliminary Amendment.  
By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants are amending claims 2 and 3 and adding new claims 4-11.

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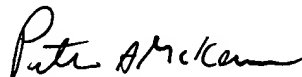
Prior to examination of the Application, the Examiner is kindly requested to enter and consider the above amendments to the claims and specification. It is respectfully submitted that this Preliminary Amendment places the application in better condition for examination. The foregoing changes merely correct typographical, grammatical, syntactical, and idiomatic errors. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

Claims 2 and 3 are being amended for clarity purposes. Claims 4-11 are being added to further define the invention.

An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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